

Application No.: 10/762032

Case No.: 59504US002

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-10 (canceled).

11. (previously presented) A coater for preparing coated retroreflective particles, comprising:

a disc having a periphery and a major surface;

a motor engaging the disc so as to be able to spin the disc;

a restrictor mounted adjacent to the disc so as to provide a gap for the egress of coated particles, wherein the restrictor has a portion having a frusto-conical shape so that the height of the space between the disc and the restrictor diminishes with radial distance from the center of the disc and further wherein the restrictor includes a flange portion extending from the frusto-conical shape substantially parallel to the major surface of the disc;

a first dispenser for dispensing a mixture of sand particles and polymeric resin, the first dispenser disposed above the disc; and

a second dispenser for dispensing glass beads, the second dispenser disposed above the disc.

12. (original) The coater according to claim 11 wherein the surface of the disc comprises a material with a high coefficient of friction relative to the particles.

13. (original) The coater according to claim 12 wherein the material with a high coefficient of friction is polymeric foam.

14. (original) The coater according to claim 11 wherein the gap between the disc and the restrictor is adjustable.

15. (original) The coater according to claim 11 wherein the gap is between about one and three times the diameter of the sand particles.

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16. (original) The coater according to claim 11 further comprising a collection bin disposed beneath the disc.
17. (original) The coater according to claim 16 further comprising a barrier to divert coated particles emerging from the gap into the collection bin.
18. (original) The coater according to claim 11 wherein the disc is spun by the motor at between about 360 to 720 rpm.
19. (previously presented) A coater for spin coating particles comprising:
a rotating disc having a surface that engages the particles;
a barrier disposed adjacent the disc surface; and
a gap created between the barrier and the disc surface, the gap including:
a first inner portion that decreases linearly with the radius of the disc; and
a second outer portion substantially parallel to the disc, the second portion disposed near the perimeter of the disc.
20. (previously presented) The coater of claim 19, further including a raised structure on the disc surface, wherein the raised structure includes a portion that extends into the gap, whereby coated particles are contacted by the raised structure when the disc is rotating.